AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for visually indicating a voice speaker to a listener in a context of a computing session, comprising the steps of:

    (a)   obtaining a speaker identifier that identifies a voice speaker who is transmitting voice data;

    (b)   associating the speaker identifier with a visual indicator representing the voice speaker in the computing session; and

    (c)   displaying the visual indicator to the listener to indicate the voice speaker who is speaking, wherein the visual indicator comprises a change in appearance of a visual element that is controlled by the voice speaker in the computing session.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein prior to the step of displaying, further comprising the step of determining whether the listener has elected to hear voice communications from the voice speaker.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the step of determining comprises at least one of the steps of:

    (a)   determining whether the listener has muted voice communications from the voice speaker; and

    (b)   determining whether the voice speaker provided evidence that the voice speaker is trusted by the listener, so that voice communications from the voice speaker are allowed to be heard by the listener.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein prior to the step of displaying, further comprising the step of determining whether the listener is prohibited from hearing voice

communications from the voice speaker.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the step of determining comprises at least one of the steps of:

       (a)   determining whether the voice speaker has been muted in the computing session; and

       (b)   determining whether the voice speaker is restricted from voice communication as a result of one of an event occurring in the computing session and a status of the computing session.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising ~~at least one of the steps of:~~ ~~(a)~~ modifying the voice data as a function of a status of at least one of the voice speaker and the listener· in the computing session~~; and~~ ~~(b)~~ ~~modifying the voice data as a function of a predefined characteristic selected by the voice speaker~~.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of mixing the voice data from the voice speaker with voice data from another voice speaker to provide the listener with a multi-voice communication.

10. (Original) A memory medium on which are stored machine instructions for carrying out the steps of Claim 1.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A system for visually indicating a voice speaker to a listener in a context of a computing session, comprising:

> (a) a processor;

> (b) a display in communication with the processor; and

> (c)   a memory in communication with the processor, said memory storing machine instructions that cause the processor to carry out a plurality of functions, including:

>> (i)   obtaining a speaker identifier from voice data transmitted by the voice speaker;

>> (ii)   associating the speaker identifier with a visual indicator used for indicating the voice speaker; and

>> (iii)   displaying the visual indicator on the display to indicate that the voice speaker is speaking, wherein the visual indicator comprises a change in appearance of a visual element that is controlled by the voice speaker in the computing session.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein prior to displaying the visual indicator, the machine instructions further cause the processor to carry out the function of determining whether the listener has elected to hear voice communications from the voice speaker.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 15, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to carry out at least one of the functions of:

> (a)   determining whether the listener has muted voice communications from the voice speaker; and

> (b)   determining whether the voice speaker provided evidence that the voice speaker is trusted by the listener, so that voice communications from the voice speaker are allowed to be heard by the listener.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein prior to displaying the visual

indicator, the machine instructions further cause the processor to carry out the function of determining whether the listener is prohibited from hearing voice communications from the voice speaker.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 17, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to carry out at least one of the functions of:

        (a)   determining whether the voice speaker has been muted in the computing session; and

        (b)   determining whether the voice speaker is restricted from voice communication as a result of one of an event occurring in the computing session and a status of the computing session.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to ~~carry out at least one of the functions of:~~ ~~(a)~~ ~~modifying~~modify the voice data as a function of a status of at least one of the voice speaker and the listener in the computing session.~~; and~~ ~~(b)~~ ~~modifying the voice data as a function of a predefined characteristic selected by the voice speaker.~~

20. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to carry out the function of mixing the voice data from the voice speaker with voice data from another voice speaker to provide the listener with a multi-voice communication.

21. (New) The method of Claim 1, further comprising modifying the voice data as a function of a predefined characteristic selected by the voice speaker.

22. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein modifying the voice data as a function of a predefined characteristic selected by the voice speaker comprises adjusting the voice data to sound like an elf.

23. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein modifying the voice data as a function of a predefined characteristic selected by the voice speaker comprises adjusting the voice data to sound like a preselected gender.

24. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the change in appearance of a visual element that is controlled by the voice speaker in the computing session comprises moving a mouth on a character controlled by the voice speaker.

25. (New) The system of Claim 12, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to the voice data as a function of a predefined characteristic selected by the voice speaker.